

Carlisle Conservation Commission
October 11, 2012

Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, Chair Kelly Guarino called the meeting to order in the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Vice Chair Luke Ascolillo, Commissioners Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Peter Burn, Jen Bush and Lee Tatistcheff and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard.

Bills, Minutes, General Agenda Items, & New/Pending or Old Business

Minutes:

*Ascolillo moved to accept the minutes of the **November 18, 2010** meeting as amended, Burn seconded and all voted in favor with the exception of Brown and Tatistcheff, who abstained.*

*Bush moved to accept the minutes of the **December 2, 2010** meeting as amended, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor with the exception of Brown and Tatistcheff, who abstained.*

*Bush moved to accept the minutes of the **December 16, 2010** meeting as submitted, Burn seconded and all voted in favor with the exception of Brown and Tatistcheff, who abstained.*

Land Use Permit: As part of the Commission's continuing effort to better document group activities conducted on conservation lands, it had requested that a representative of the Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF) attend the discussion in order provide information on its events, including nature walks and other public programs sponsored by the group each year. Present for the discussion was CCF member Alan Ankers, who agreed to provide the Commission with an annual report summarizing CCF-sponsored public programs, including dates, locations, attendance and theme. In addition, Ankers agreed to notify the Administrator prior to future events in order to avoid potential conflicts with other groups. *Ascolillo moved to issue a Land Use Permit to CCF as described, Burn seconded and all voted in favor.*

Response-Benfield Farms Complaint: South Street resident Alan Carpenito was present to request that the Commission investigate several alleged wetlands violations he believes occurred on the Benfield Land during or prior to 2003. According to Carpenito, the unpermitted work included wetland fill along an existing cart path, excavation and relocation of a large boulder, and damage to several large trees in the area. Because the Town did not purchase the land until 2004, the Commission had previously informed Carpenito that the issue exceeded the three-year statute of limitations during which the Town may have been required to restore the area to previous conditions. Carpenito is now asking whether there are any provisions under the Clean Water Act that may require the town to address the alterations. Guarino told Carpenito that the Army Corp of Engineers is now in the process of further investigating his claim relative to the Clean Water Act. In the meantime, the Commission agreed to coordinate a site walk with Carpenito and asked that his concerns be submitted in writing for their records.

Greenough Barn: Following up on a discussion from the Commission's previous meeting where they addressed safety and liability concerns relative to the Greenough Barn, Guarino said that she was in the process of gathering additional information from Police Chief John Fisher. She said she had also been in touch with the Selectmen, the Land Stewardship Committee and representatives of CCF in preparation for the upcoming Joint Conservation Groups Meeting during which options for addressing the issues at the site will be included in their discussions.

8:05 p.m. (DOA-297) Request for Determination**Applicant: Carlisle Trails Committee, Marc Lamere****Project Location: Foss Farm Conservation Land****Project Description: Installation of a trail, boardwalk and bridge over a stream**

Trails Committee member Mark Lamere presented the Plan for the construction of a trail, boardwalk and bridge connecting the Foss Farm parking area up to the South Field Loop. The project had been started in 2004 but was never completed due to lack of funding. The proposed work includes cutting a 50' trail from the parking lot towards a small stream that exists, where a 60' Audubon style boardwalk would be constructed over the stream and wetlands area, leading to a 200' trail from the end of the boardwalk to the existing South Field Loop trail. The boardwalk would provide a dry crossing for users and protect the wetland, stream and its bank from damage. *Brown moved to issue a Negative Determination B2, whereas the work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Tatistcheff seconded and all voted in favor.* Lamere invited all interested parties to assist with the project during the Trails Committee workday scheduled for Saturday, October 20.

8:25 p.m. (DEP-0928) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing**Applicant: David Reed****Project Location: 90 Page Brook Road****Project Description: Installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array on 5 “ground screws” in BVW, Riverfront and Land Subject to Flooding**

Guarino opened the Continued Hearing under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Charles Cady of Absolute Green Energy Corporation presented the Plan for the construction and commissioning of a solar photovoltaic ground mount array that is projected to generate 9,332-kilowatt hours per year. The project is located adjacent to a small pond and is inside the wetlands, the inner 100-foot Riverfront Area and is also within an area designated as Rare Species Habitat, therefore requiring a MESA review by NHESP. The proposed location was deemed the only viable area on the property suitable for installation of a solar array due to the need to maximize solar PV production. Other possible locations on the property were deemed unsuitable due to existing conditions. Locating the array on the roof of the house would require the removal of approximately 17 mature trees due to the configuration of the house. The solar array would be supported by five 6” helical screws, extending seven feet into the ground. With the exception of the ground screw installation machine, which is operated via remote control, all other proposed equipment would consist of hand tools.

Brownrigg asked about whether there are precautions in place relative to a possible hydraulic oil leak associated with the ground screw installation equipment. Cady said although there is always a remote possibility that a line could blow, he did not think it would be an issue. In response to Bush's inquiry relative to whether any regular maintenance of the array would be required, Cady said that, in addition to ongoing monitoring of the system via a web link, a routine performance check is done annually in order to determine if all panels are operating within specifications.

The hearing was continued to October 25, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. contingent on submission of an Alternatives Analysis.

Chelmsford Wells update: Vice Chair Ascolillo reported that he is continuing in his efforts to coordinate communications with the Chelmsford Water District relative to their proposal to install a public water supply well field near the Carlisle Cranberry Bog. Present for the discussion was Fiske

Street resident Phil Dumka, who asked about the town's water rights relative to residential water supplies and the Cranberry Bog farming operation.

Guarino said that the Town of Chelmsford is currently discussing the possibility of moving forward with the project but has not actually begun testing. She explained that Carlisle's water rights are connected to the agricultural operations of the Cranberry Bog and she did not think that monitoring of private wells would be a requirement. Ascolillo, who is the Commission's liaison with the Town of Chelmsford, said he was not sure if state regulations would require the monitoring of properties located greater than 250 feet from the project site. Willard noted that the Chelmsford Water District will be required to submit the proposal to the EPA for review. Guarino thanked Dumka for his comments, which will be relayed to the Water District along with other concerns cited by the Town of Carlisle.

Joint Conservation Groups Meeting: A joint meeting of the Carlisle Conservation Commission, Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee, Land Stewardship Committee and other interested parties is scheduled for October 29, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., when the group will discuss a range of topics of common interest including the Greenough Barn, the proposed Chelmsford Water District public water supply well field and deer population management.

Cranberry Bog House Lease Agreement: Guarino said she is in the process of reviewing the Cranberry Bog Lease Agreement, which will expire in 2015. The Commission's intention is to combine the entire Cranberry Bog House Lease with the Agricultural Lease for the Bog for both agricultural equipment storage and for worker housing. The issue will be reviewed by a subcommittee, to be comprised of representatives from the Land Stewardship Committee, the Conservation Commission and private citizens. Once the revised agreement has been finalized, it would be reviewed by Town Council prior to being brought to Town Meeting for approval.

Invasives Plant Management: Willard distributed information relative to the Commission's consideration of the future purchase of a Weed Wrench, a tool that has proven to be effective in managing invasive woody plants with minimal disturbance. The purpose would be to have a tool easily available to facilitate invasive plant removal on Conservation lands. The cost of the tool is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$189 depending upon the size. The purchase will be given further consideration for possible use by residents interested in managing invasives on their property.

9:25 p.m. Burn moved to adjourn, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hopkins
Administrative Assistant